

WRECK AND RUIN.

Louisville and Other Points Visited by Fearful Disaster.

A Cyclone Leaves Death and Destruction in Its Path—Frightful Loss of Human Lives.

Scenes of Suffering Humanity Searching for Loved Ones—Beggars Description—Many Ruins Take Fire.

LIVES AND PROPERTY DESTROYED.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 28, 4 a. m.—Shortly after 9 o'clock to-night a tornado swept over this city, wrecking 200 or 300 houses and killing 200 people. The wind came from the southwest. The Union depot at the foot of Seventh street was lifted from its foundation and turned over into the raging torrent of the Ohio river. A train of cars making up for the Louisville Southern road went over with the building. The city hall on West Market street was wrecked. In the hall were over 100 people, and but few of them escaped alive. Many buildings after falling, caught fire and the inmates were blocked with the debris of fallen buildings and telegraph and electric wires. This disaster is carried around the city to the bridge and sent over the railroad wire.

ESTIMATED AT EIGHT HUNDRED.

WASHINGTON, March 28, 5 a. m.—The loss of life by the cyclone at Louisville is now estimated at 800.

DESTRUCTION AT METROPOLIS, ILL.

CAIRO, ILL., March 28.—A private dispatch from Metropolis at 6 a. m. states the cyclone there caused death and destruction, but no particulars whatever. The wires are down in every direction, indicating that the storm assumed large proportions, and but meager particulars are obtainable. The Mobile and Ohio wires are intact to Mill creek, this side of Jonesboro. Capt. Williams, claim agent, states that between Louisville and Mill Creek fifteen telegraph poles were carried down and that many people were injured. But to this hour of writing (11 p. m.) there could be secured no particulars. Reports from Metropolis state that 100 houses were wrecked. At 11 o'clock to-night the wind is blowing sixty miles an hour.

NARRATIONS OF AN EYE WITNESS.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 28, 2 a. m.—Information just received here is that a cyclone struck Louisville in the southwestern portion and took a northeasterly direction. An eye witness narrates: I only saw the course of it from Eleventh and Walnut streets. From this latter point it followed its course to Seventh and the river, where it left the city and reached Jeffersonville at the foot of Spring street. Little damage was done in Jeffersonville, however. In Louisville the devastation is terrific and the loss of life will certainly reach hundreds, if not thousands. In one building at Twelfth and Market streets two lodges and a dancing school were in session, there being in the building perhaps 100 people, not one of whom it is thought to have escaped. I stood and watched men working in the ruins and saw six or eight bodies taken out in fifteen minutes. There is scarcely any thing left that would indicate there had ever been a building or that any of the inmates escaped. The path of the cyclone was about a square and a half in width.

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 28.—A late special says: Metropolis, a small village in Illinois about thirty-five miles from Cairo, was destroyed by a storm and several hundred people killed and injured.

COMMUNICATION SHUT OFF.

NEW YORK, March 28.—The terrible storm west appear to have been fatal in the vicinity of Louisville, Ky., although there are no positive reports upon which to base any estimate of the damage. There is not at this hour (2 a. m.), nor has there been for several hours, any information from the city of Louisville or vicinity. There have been rumors of alarming loss of life by the cyclone, but everything needed confirmation. The absolute break down of all telegraph facilities caused great apprehension and suspense. The city of Louisville is beyond all reach of the telegraph and is a dead city so far as wire communication is concerned. The cyclone must have spent its greatest force there.

ST. LOUIS SUFFERS.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 28.—A terrific wind storm occurred here this evening. The electric light station building was unroofed, and Schmidt's restaurant was also unroofed. A cornice of Spring's grain store was blown off, a box was blown out of the window, but escaped unhurt. The wind then tore down two frame buildings belonging to the Clark estate, unroofed the stores of Messrs. McLean & Newell, and Dr. Allen's office, and completely wrecked Herrin's shoe store, a two-story frame building occupied by Mrs. M. Spitzer as a millinery shop, was crushed like an egg shell and Mrs. Spitzer buried in the ruins. She was quickly extricated and found to be seriously injured. She may not recover. Robert Byrne's building, badly smashed and broken, and the residence of Mr. Mathes near by was lifted from its foundation and crushed.

BURYING THE FAMILY.

The ruins. All escaped serious injury save Mrs. Mathes, who now lies in a critical condition. Many other houses were considerably damaged. A cow and

calves were taken up by the wind and carried over a quarter of a mile, being dropped in a field uninjured. The dwelling of John Bourner was blown completely away, not a vestige of it remaining. The streets present a desolate appearance, being filled with debris. Advice from Jefferson City, Cape Girardeau and Charleston, Mo., state that the storm was very severe, and at the latter place one life was lost, a woman, name not given.

A SOLELY STRICKEN CITY.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 28.—Between 8 and 9 o'clock last night a tornado struck this city from the southwest, northwestern, leaving death and destruction everywhere. Outside of the clearly defined limits, the citizens knew only of a heavy rain accompanied by a slight wind. Soon came the alarm of fire from a dozen different stations and the horrors of the calamity began to dawn on the people. Great stone warehouses, halls of amusement and dwelling houses all went down before the storm.

WRECK AND RUIN.

Masses of brick and stone in heaps presented the appearance of having simply crumbled to the earth. Gangs of rescuers worked like gophers on the great masses of debris in search for human victims of the awful calamity. Women and men dashed before mad horses, whose hoofs it seemed would crush them to death. Policemen were stationed at street crossings to prevent people from attempting to pass through ruined thoroughfares where partially wrecked walls stood as a menace to human life, but the workmen made their way down dangerous streets with astounding recklessness. The morbid crowd would not be held back in its wild desire to satisfy curiosity, and it was a sight worth their efforts to see the wreck was so great it beggars attempt at detail.

WRECK AND RUIN.

Immediately upon the burst of the cyclone the fire bells sounded and the police were at work. In ten minutes a posse appeared at the Falls City hall. The walls of the adjoining house were first dropped, and then began the work of cutting through the heavy slate roof that covered all. At first the work was difficult and laborious, on account of the anxious multitude that thronged the wreck. The most difficult task was to get the roof of women, who were found clinging to the slate.

WITH THEIR FINGERS.

With their fingers, each of which they thought ascended from their own dying. Everyone did noble work. After an hour of hard labor the first victim, Mrs. Sarah Kelly, was unearthed. She was found sitting in a chair, her head bruised and one arm broken. She said: "At the first quake a mad rush was made for the entrance. Women were knocked down and trampled upon in the mad rush to escape. Seeing that there was no chance of escape, I remained behind. The last I saw of my friends was just before the door gave way and the ceiling fell."

Work was continued, but none of those whom Mrs. Kelly said were near her could be found. The excavation was then moved from the rear of the building to the front, where it was supposed a greater crowd was gathered. As soon as the roof was removed and the mass of brick beneath, the first sight that met their eyes was anything but hopeful. Ten women

LOCKED IN EACH OTHERS ARMS.

were drawn out of the debris, all dead but one. Mr. James Hansen, whose wife had been at the lodge meeting, was foremost in the wreck, and the first person whom he saw as he drove out of the ruined building was his wife, who died in his arms. He laid her by the side of the others who were dead, and continued to work for the living. Inside of the next hour thirty men and women were drawn out dead, but with no wounds and no serious injuries. It is thought all met death from suffocation. Gas pipes had broken, which caused the lights to go out and which saved the ruins from fire for the time, but flooded the debris with vapor almost as deadly as fire might have proven. Ways were pierced into the building and bodies drawn out dead and dying. One part of the building was reserved for the dead, but the wounded were taken into stores and houses on the opposite side of the street, where physicians and priests administered to souls and bodies. Along Main street the path of the storm extended from Sixth to Eleventh streets, and from Seventh to Eleventh not a single building was left standing. Occasionally a massive stone or iron roof still stood, while the entire structure proper had been swept entirely away. This morning it presented the most stupendous spectacle of disaster and ruin ever witnessed. In the course of the storm lay the pride tobacco market of the city and the largest warehouse, almost to the last one lay in ruins. They include the Kentucky Picketts, Ninth Street, Falls City, Phoenix, Green River, Louisville, Enterprise, Central and Planters.

NOT A SINGLE BRICK

remaining in place. In the destruction of this house many lives were lost, principally of persons who occupied sleeping rooms there. Many of them were young girls employed at the hotel next door. Saloons and other available places have been turned into hastily improvised morgues where the bodies were taken as fast as recovered and awaiting identification. Patrol wagons are being pressed into service as dead wagons to convey corpses to required places.

Eleventh street seemed to receive the full force of the storm. As it rushed down this street it met with roofs of buildings which are mostly residences on each side, leaving in many instances furniture and other contents unmoistened.

FIRE IN THE RUINS.

At 12 o'clock the opening up of a portion of the debris of the Falls City hall caused a draught to penetrate the ruins, whereupon a smoldering fire broke out with tremendous fierceness. It spread rapidly, and forced the workers to desert their posts. As soon as the fire gained headway the groans of the imprisoned people became shrieks, and so great was the horror of

the moment that watchers grew frantic and ran about like wild, the terrible sufferings which they were unable to alleviate driving them to despair. Several lines of hose were soon throwing water on the flames, but it was more than an hour before work could be proceeded with and carried on, which was done with much difficulty on account of the heat.

ITS EFFECTS WIDESPREAD.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 28.—The effects of the storm were widespread. For miles in either direction of the city an occasional roof was torn off, and trees lifted out of the ground by the roots. As a special train sped toward the fatal city, bearing Associated Press representatives from Indianapolis, evidences were first noticeable fully fifty miles out. Many little towns along the Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis railroad were fairly stripped of their signs and gingerbread work.

When the scene of disaster was reached an appalling sight was presented. Crowds of people thronged Eleventh street station, and from there up Main street to the heart of the city was a mass of humanity. On either side was

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CHILDREN WERE DANCING.

Mr. Louis Sims had been for hours mooping about in agony in that portion of the wreck where this room had been, for his wife and four little children were there. When the room was reached Mrs. Sims was the first one found, and she was fatally hurt. Then within about fifteen minutes each of the three Sims children were recovered. They were unconscious, and there is only a faint possibility of their living. While the father was imploring the workers to get his other child, fire broke out and the work was suspended.

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The last man taken out alive before the flames started was John Hopden of 2109 West Broadway, and just previous to that a woman who was unable to give her name. It is impossible to tell the extent of injuries to either.

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Men, women and children rend the air on every side. A surging crowd of 10,000 people block the streets for squares about the scene of the catastrophe. A large force of police guard the avenue to keep back the pressing masses of curious humanity that are gradually forcing their way to the awful scene of calamity. Five hundred men through the glassy panes of the windows of the wreck, and the helpless, who weak or weary, lazy to help, helping hand to the brave squad of rescuers. It is a sight to strike anguish to the soul of the bravest.

SHAPLESS MASS OF FLESH

and bone, a semblance of features of some relative or friend.

Coroner Miller stands at the door of his temporary morgue in McGrath's saloon, opposite the wreck, directing the disposition of bodies.

The following bodies have been taken from the debris this morning and placed in the morgue; most of them have been identified and claimed by relatives: Rudolph Seeger, mechanic, Louisville and Nashville railroad, 124 West Main street; Genevieve Sims, 40 years, 124 West Main street; Henry Lingo, Fifteenth and Tyler avenue; Esquire James M. Stevens, Eighth and Jefferson streets; John Reicht, 749 Eleventh street; Charles Reicht, Chapel street between Main and Market streets; Mary Seicht, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth; Fleischer, Twelfth street, between Jefferson and Market; Miss Mary Schottler, Twenty-eighth and proposed extension of Madison street; A. Streulering, East Market street; Elmer F. Barker, 315 North street; Clarence Lorezer, 315 North street; Robt. Hamilton, residence unknown; Mrs. John Horan, 1841 Portland avenue; four unknown men, mangled beyond recognition.

At 9 o'clock this morning while Coroner Miller was standing over a corpse in his improvised morgue a man, pale as death and voiceless from excitement, rushed in and hoarsely whispered: Mr. Miller your brother is

BURIED IN THE RUINS.

The coroner was nearly overcome by the terrible news, but the young man who was standing by assured the coroner that he had seen his brother at the corner of Fourth and Market about 8 o'clock, or just about the time the casualty occurred. Others maintain, however, that Mr. Miller and a party of candidates were seen go into the building a few minutes before it fell. Those and of unfounded rumors are circulating in every quarter of the city and it is confidently hoped the report of Mr. Miller's death is groundless.

Market street this evening looks like a devastated village in complete ruin. There seems only to have swept Broadway from Fifteenth to Nineteenth, but really all the houses between these streets and on intersecting streets were demolished. Most of the cottages, however, and low frame buildings escaped without serious injury. From Fifteenth to Sixteenth are merely small frame houses, occupied by colored families. Roofs were torn off, but not much damage was done and none of the occupants were hurt. From Sixteenth down to Nineteenth, however, the

DESTRUCTION WAS TERRIBLE.

Mr. Peter Speth and family, who live at 1613, were quietly seated in their parlor when the storm burst in all its fury. The building swayed and tottered, and finally the walls of the second story reeled and fell with a resounding crash. All of the family remained in the hallway and escaped without injury. The furniture and building were destroyed and the total loss will be \$3500.

Adjoining is the residence of Mrs. Welsh, 1615. It was literally demolished. The appearance of the crumbled mass of ruins this morning could never suppose that only yesterday it was a beautiful dwelling. By almost a miracle the members of the family escaped. The loss will be about \$5000.

Mrs. John Brown lived at No. 1617. Her house received the full force of the first terrible gust, and the walls bent and crumbled like so much paper. The lady herself was caught by the falling timbers and pinioned to the ground, but

her husband succeeded in extricating her. She was not seriously injured, and was immediately removed to the residence of her brother, Mr. Peter Speth. Her home is a mass of ruins.

At 1619 lived Mrs. Shulten in a fine two-story brick building. It was leveled, and, together with all it contained, is an actual loss.

The Catholic buildings on Seventeenth and Broadway, the sisters' home, parochial, Father Derrin's residence and the Sacred Heart church were all blown down, and Sister Plus was buried. Shortly after, when taken out by rescuing parties, she was dead. All of the other sisters, however, escaped without injury.

Down like a shell.

A number of houses were blown down, but the inmates were all up and had time to escape. A frame schoolhouse was lifted from its foundation and moved several feet and utterly destroyed. The track of the storm in Parkland was about three blocks wide, but in such a zigzag manner that it is almost impossible to measure the exact track. To the west of town, from the direction in which the monster had approached, a path several hundred yards wide is moved down, trees being cut off like stalks of grain before the reaper's scythe.

JEFFERSONVILLE WAS STRUCK

by the cyclone at 8 o'clock. It was very distinctly heard two miles in the country, where people wondered what it meant. Fortunately not a person was killed in Jeffersonville, though some were badly hurt.

PROPERTY LOSSES—MORE DEAD.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 28.—The lowest estimate puts the actual property loss at \$1,000,000, the highest at \$3,000,000 and grounded on the facts presented we place it at \$2,500,000. There is almost no insurance.

Following are additional known to be dead: Peter Fuller, married, fifty-four years of age, carpenter, resides at 512 Sixteenth street, body recovered; Thomas H. Puff, married, thirty-six years of age, pushman at B. F. Avery & Son's place, body recovered; 822 Columbia street, body recovered; Leola Falkenstein, single, twenty-five years of age, employee of George Jones, quarryman, body still in the ruins of the Falls City hall; Mrs. Steider, wife of Alonzo Steider, butcher at 3103 Portland street, body recovered; Mrs. Steider, wife of Alonzo Steider, butcher at 3103 Portland street, body recovered; Mrs. Steider, wife of Alonzo Steider, butcher at 3103 Portland street, body recovered.

REPORTS FROM OTHER POINTS.

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Many a bridge, crushed to death by falling trees.

Many others were injured, but only Jeff Coons seriously. Houses were swept as kindling from over entire families, while no one was hurt.

Passing from Grand Rivers, the cyclone struck the railroad bridge over the Cumberland river, half a mile beyond, and tore away a span and toppled the draw into the river, thus cutting off all trains. All telegraph wires are destroyed, and only through the relief train sent out from this place could facts be learned.

At Farmington, twenty-five miles south, there was great damage to buildings from the same storm, but no loss of life.

In Paducah the storm was light, doing no damage of consequence, but no telegraph lines were left and none were up until late to-day. It is thought the storm to this section is not half told.

EMINENCE, Ky., March 29.—This section of country was visited by a cyclone Thursday night at 9 o'clock. Several houses were leveled and many were destroyed and a number badly damaged. One of these was occupied by James Kinney and family. His little three-year-old daughter and his brother-in-law, Lon Maddon, were killed outright. Kinney was probably fatally injured, and his wife and several children were seriously injured. The residence of James Kilson west of the town was destroyed. Mrs. Kilson was fatally injured.

The whole country for miles is strewn with debris and barns destroyed.

SPRINGVILLE, Ky., March 29.—Freight train No. 25, from Evansville, ran at full speed into a large tree blown by the storm across the track just above Seebree, and was totally wrecked. Engineer Pete Burnes, Fireman Brodges and Brakeman Powell were killed.

Marysville, Ky., March 29.—This city was devastated by the storm that wrought such ruin at Louisville. There was great loss of life.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 29.—A special from Cairo says advice from Metropolis are to the effect that the accounts of the cyclone at that place have been greatly exaggerated. There is but one death known of, though perhaps a dozen or more are severely injured. The loss of property will amount to \$150,000.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., March 29.—Reports reached here that the tornado struck Grayville, Ga., a town eighteen miles south of this place, Friday night shortly after midnight. People were sleeping and were terribly frightened. Roofs were blown off large flouring mills, and two houses belonging to John Woods and one to T. T. Wilson were blown down. Outbuildings of A. S. Brooks were blown down. Several narrow escapes are reported. So far it has been impossible to learn whether anyone has been killed.

RED CROSS AID.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Miss Clara Bertram, of the Red Cross society, called at the White House to-day and informed the president, who is ex-officio chairman of the government board of that organization, that it was her intention to start for Louisville and the devastated district to-night to give what aid she could to the sufferers from the disaster.

A SUMMARY OF THE WRECK.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 29.—The streets in the district worst damaged are still picketed, but except between Eleventh and Twelfth on Market street the street cars cannot run. Repair and wagons and all but a few others are allowed to pass. A few men are busy in the ruins saving stocks of goods and private property.

The excellent work done by the board of trade committees in canvassing and

taken out and it was found that William was dead. All the other brothers were uninjured.

The most exciting scene occurred at the two-story dwelling of Mr. Goodenough. He and his wife and children were in the second story, and soon the lower partition collapsed, leaving the inmates suspended in mid-air. In all the wind and rain the whole family were forced to jump, into bed, receiving, fortunately, but few bruises. This was a miraculous escape, and they had scarcely jumped from the building before the whole structure had fallen to the ground.

At the lower end of Fifteenth street every corner house was carried away, and many houses entirely swept to the ground.

THE BOUNDARIES

of the district swept by the hurricane nearly as may be described by street names as follows: Coming from the southwest, the first block was destroyed at Broadway, sweeping the roofs between Sixteenth and Eighteenth streets, thence northeasterly diagonally to Chestnut. On Chestnut the damage is between Sixteenth and Fourteenth; on Walnut, between Fourteenth and Twelfth; on Green, between Twelfth and Tenth; on Jefferson, between Eleventh and Ninth; on Market, between Eleventh and Eighth; on Main from Eleventh to the Louisville hotel, in the middle of the square between Sixth and Seventh. Between Sixth and Eleventh the hurricane swept to the river and thence leaped to Jeffersonville.

Reports were prevalent in this city during the afternoon that "Parson" Davis, who is here with his combination, was dead. There is no truth in it. He and his company are all O. K.

Mayor Jacobs placed the district under martial rule. The district is described as follows: Jefferson street from Tenth to Twelfth; Market street from Eleventh to Eighteenth, and Main street from Seventh to Tenth. Shortly after Chief of Police Taylor ordered the deputies under his charge to arrest any suspicious character found on the scene of the disaster, and every person caught in the act of pillaging houses or robbing bodies.

Temporary roofs are being put on wherever possible, and hundreds of heads of tobacco being carted to the warehouses in parts of the city untouched by the storm.

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Passing from Grand Rivers, the cyclone struck the railroad bridge over the Cumberland river, half a mile beyond, and tore away a span and toppled the draw into the river, thus cutting off all trains. All telegraph wires are destroyed, and only through the relief train sent out from this place could facts be learned.

At Farmington, twenty-five miles south, there was great damage to buildings from the same storm, but no loss of life.

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